WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, I. R. Tannehill in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, AUGUST 1936

By H. C. Hunter

Atmospheric pressure.—Considerable contrasts were noted in barometric pressure over the North Atlantic region during August. Around the British Isles and to the southwestward as far as the Azores, pressure averaged considerably higher than normal. On the other hand, it averaged moderately lower than normal over the Greenland-Iceland area, where there was an almost continuous deficiency, sometimes rather large in amount, from the 13th to the 24th; and it averaged somewhat less than normal over the area from the Bahamas and Florida to Bermuda.

The extremes of pressure reported by vessels, namely 30.53 and 29.36 inches, indicate a smaller range than is usual for an entire month. The higher reading was noted on the Belgian motorship *Spidoleine* near 41° N., 27° W., during the forenoon of the 3d; the lower was reported by the Swedish motorship *Blankaholm*, near 58° N., 9° W., about daybreak on the 18th. Table 1 shows that readings a little lower than that of the *Blankaholm* were recorded at Julianehaab, Greenland, and Reykjavik, Iceland.

Table 1.—*Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level), at selected stations, for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, August 1936*

Stations	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	*Inch*	*Inches*		*Inches*	
Julianehaab, Greenland	29.68	−0.14	30.00	31	29.28	22
Reykjavik, Iceland	29.71	−.10	30.12	25	29.24	23
Lerwick, Shetland Islands	29.91	+.11	30.42	26	29.36	3
Valencia, Ireland	30.12	+.20	30.39	22, 23, 24, 25	29.71	2
Lisbon, Portugal	30.01	−.01	30.22	11	29.94	13
Madeira	30.01	−.02	30.18	10	29.89	28
Horta, Azores	30.29	+.09	30.50	4	29.96	31
Belle Isle, Newfoundland	29.92	+.03	30.22	30	29.40	20
Halifax, Nova Scotia	30.00	−.01	30.34	22	29.60	24
Nantucket	30.01	+.02	30.31	1	29.68	24
Hatteras	30.04	+.04	30.26	1	29.83	10
Bermuda	30.11	−.03	30.26	12	29.90	25
Turks Island	29.97	−.07	30.03	8	29.89	25
Key West	29.96	−.02	30.09	1	29.84	20
New Orleans	30.00	+.02	30.17	4	29.82	10

Note.—All data based on a. m. observations only, with departures compiled from best available normals related to time of observation, except Hatteras, Key West, Nantucket, and New Orleans, which are 24-hour corrected means.

Cyclones and gales.—There were comparatively few winds of gale force over the North Atlantic waters, and but one instance has come to notice of any wind exceeding a strong gale (force 9). This occurrence, when force 11 was reached, was in the western Gulf of Mexico shortly before the month ended, and is mentioned in the description of tropical disturbances elsewhere in this issue.

A low-pressure area, of slight strength at first, moved northeastward well off the American coast, on a course roughly parallel to it, for a few days; and on the 10th and 11th, from near Sable Island to the area northeast of Newfoundland, showed considerable strength for the month and the latitude. A few reports of fresh gales and strong gales have been received in connection with this LOW.

About a week afterward, pressure was notably low for several days near and to the southward and southeastward of Iceland, with the result that vessels in far-northern waters between the 5th and 20th meridians of west longitude met fresh to strong gales. Chart IX presents the situation on the 18th, at about the time of greatest development of this LOW.

Tropical disturbances.—There is an account elsewhere in this issue of four tropical disturbances which affected either the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic waters near Florida during August. On the whole these were not important; and the later storm, mentioned as starting before the month closed (to be described in the September issue), was probably not well developed till the last day or two of August. Conditions on August 18, during the prevalence of the second tropical disturbance in the Gulf, appear on chart IX.

Fog.—From Cape Cod eastward to the 60th meridian, which is close to Sable Island, also to northward of the 45th parallel of latitude from near Newfoundland to the shores of Europe, fog was practically everywhere more prevalent than it had been during July, and it was generally more frequent than is expected during August. Among notable amounts of occurrence were: 21 days in the square 40° to 45° N., 65° to 70° W; 15 days each in the squares 45° to 50° N., 45° to 55° W; 11 days in 45° to 50° N., 20° to 25° W; and 9 days in 45° to 50° N., 5° to 10° W.

To southwestward of Cape Cod there was a little fog, but none was met south of Hatteras. In general there was but little between the 40th and 45th parallels, except to westward of the 60th meridian.

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN, AUGUST 1936

By Willis E. Hurd

Atmospheric pressure.—The average pressure situation over the North Pacific Ocean for August 1936 may be summarized briefly as consisting of a great high-pressure area which occupied the east-central and some of the northeastern part of the ocean; a moderate depression which covered most of the northern part of the Pacific; and a belt of equatorial low pressure which, in east longitudes, merged with the continental LOW over China and adjacent seas.

Pressures were appreciably above normal over the northern Aleutian region, especially at Kodiak (+.12 inch) and St. Paul (+.16); and over parts of the Far East, with maximum departure, +.12, at Chichishima, southeast of Japan.

Table 1.—*Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, North Pacific Ocean, August 1936, at selected stations*

Station	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	*Inch*	*Inches*		*Inches*	
Point Barrow	29.78	−0.11	30.03	12	29.40	8
Dutch Harbor	29.92	+.06	30.39	20	29.48	14
St. Paul	29.94	+.16	30.36	19	29.50	31
Kodiak	29.98	+.12	30.30	14	29.54	11
Juneau	30.03	+.01	30.31	1	29.71	29
Tatoosh Island	30.04	+.04	30.18	24	29.67	31
San Francisco	29.91	−.01	30.09	9	29.79	29
Mazatlan	29.84	.00	30.00	9	29.76	26
Honolulu	29.99	−.02	30.07	13	29.89	16
Midway Island	30.04	−.04	30.18	9	29.90	31
Guam	29.80	−.02	29.86	1, 11	29.64	21, 22
Manila	29.73	−.01	29.84	6, 17	29.54	25
Naha	29.76	+.07	29.94	7, 8	29.24	24
Chichishima	29.88	+.12	30.00	5	29.70	21
Urakawa	29.83		30.00	19	29.48	6

Note.—Data based on 1 daily observation only, except those for Juneau, Tatoosh Island, San Francisco, and Honolulu, which are based on 2 observations. Departures are computed from best available normals related to time of observation.